

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 05425 290612Z

21

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /066 W

----- 003419

R 290530Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5165

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL UDORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5425

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CASC, LA

SUBJ: REPORT OF OTHER AMERICANS IN LAO PRISONS

REF: A. BANGKOK 17502

B. STATE 205442

C. VIENTIANE 5357

1. CONSULAR SECTION VIENTIANE HAS NO RECORD IN EITHER PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY REGISTRATION CARDS OF AMERICANS NAMED "DONNELLY," "JOHN EMERSON," OR "MR. HUXLEY," NAMES MENTIONED BY MRS. CONWAY IN HER CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN UDORN (REF A). PERSONNEL SECTION HAS NO RECORD OF OFFICIAL AMERICANS OF THOSE NAMES AT THIS POST.

2. LAO LANGUAGE OFFICER WHO TALKED WITH MRS. CONWAY JUDGES THAT SHE KNEW SCANT LAO (NOT ABOVE S-1, R-0 LEVEL). IT UNLIKELY SHE WOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD REMARKS OF PL SOLDIERS TO EACH OTHER. HOWEVER, SHE WAS INTERROGATED IN ENGLISH AND NAMES SHE GAVE UDORN OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MENTIONED TO HER IN ENGLISH IN COURSE OF HER PRISON INTERROGATIONS.

3. MRS. CONWAY HAD APPROACHED EMBOFFS AND JCRC LIAISON

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OFFICER HERE BEFORE HER ARREST WITH CLAIM THAT SHE HAD

INFO ON AMERICAN MIA'S. JCRC LNO WAS UNABLE TO GET ANY CONCRETE, USABLE INFORMATION FROM MRS. CONWAY AT THAT TIME, ALTHOUGH HE TALKED TO HER AT LENGTH. WE NO LONGER HAVE MIA RECORDS, BUT ARE QUERYING JCRC ABOUT NAMES MRS. CONWAY MENTIONED TO SEE IF THEY COULD BE THOSE OF AMERICAN MIA'S. WILL ADVISE RESULTS.

4. WE CAN PROVIDE NO SUBSTANTIATION FOR MRS. CONWAY'S BELIEF THAT OTHER AMERICANS ARE BEING HELD IN LAO PRISONS AT THIS TIME, THOUGH, OF COURSE, IT CANNOT BE COMPLETELY RULED OUT. ONLY AMERICAN IN PRISON IN LAOS AT THIS TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE IS WILLIE E. SIMMONS (REF C), WHO WAS ARRESTED ONLY AFTER CONWAY'S RELEASE AND IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED AUGUST 30. MRS. CONWAY OBVIOUSLY WELL-MEANING, BUT WE WOULD NOT HAVE JUDGED THAT SHE WAS RELIABLE SOURCE. SHE MAY WELL HAVE CONFUSED PORTENT OF STATEMENTS SHE HEARD DURING HER IMPRISONMENT.

5. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE HAVE NO RPT NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY GROUP OF AMERICANS BEING HELD AT TCHEPONE OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN LAOS. CORCORAN

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